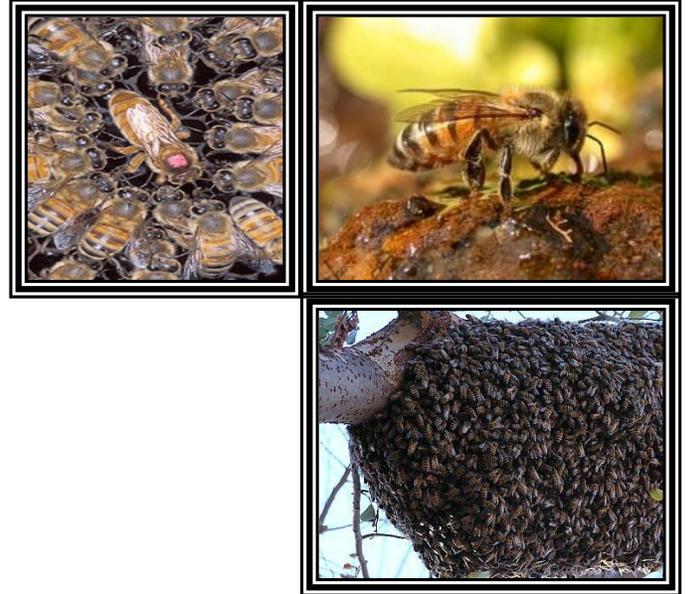


AFRICANIZED HONEY BEE

NOT KNOWN TO
OCCUR IN IDAHO



Common Name: Africanized Honey Bee, Killer Bee

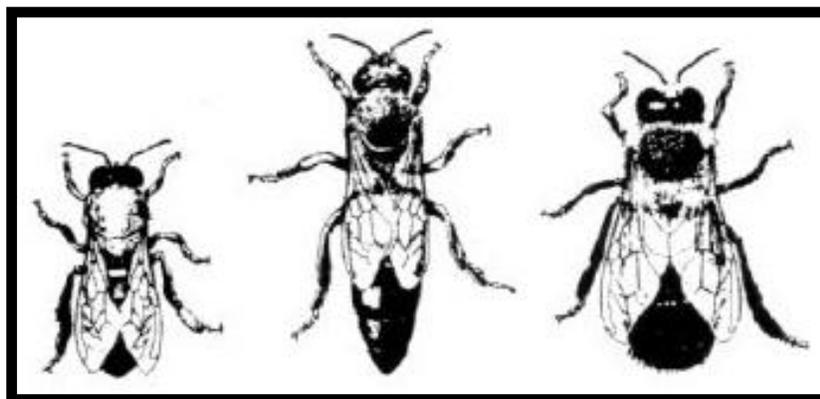
Scientific Name: *Apis mellifera scutellata* (Ruttner)

Introduction:

Africanized honey bees (AHB) are a more temperamental relative of the common garden honey bee, which is known as the European honey bee. They were first introduced into Brazil in 1956, and have been steadily moving northward since then. They are currently found in the United States in parts of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Africanized honey bees are known to defend their colonies more intensively and with less provocation than other bees, and so it is important to know how to avoid being stung.

Identification:

All honey bee colonies are composed of three castes: a queen, several hundred drones and from 30,000 to 50,000 workers. Because colonies are highly specialized, no individual bee, including the queen, is capable of living alone or establishing a new colony. The worker bee, which flies from flower to flower, is the most familiar of the three castes. It measures about 3/8- to 1/2-inch long. Although the AHB looks like our European honey bee, it can be differentiated by a laboratory examination and computer analysis. An identification method called FABIS (Fast Africanized Bee Identification System) is currently being used. First, a bee sample is taken and the wings are measured. Results are then compared with standard European bee wing measurements. If the results indicate a probable positive AHB, a complete body part measuring analysis is conducted.



Worker 2/5-3/5 in. Queen 3/5-3/4 in. Drone 3/4-5/8 in.

Life Cycle and Habits:

Both European and Africanized queens are responsible for reproduction in their colonies. Their drones mate with the queens, while the workers, which are sterile females, collect nectar and pollen and defend the colony. European and Africanized workers have barbed stingers. When either type of bee stings a human, it leaves both the stinger and tiny, attached venom sac. This causes the bee to die soon after. If you are stung, simply scrape the stinger out to remove it.

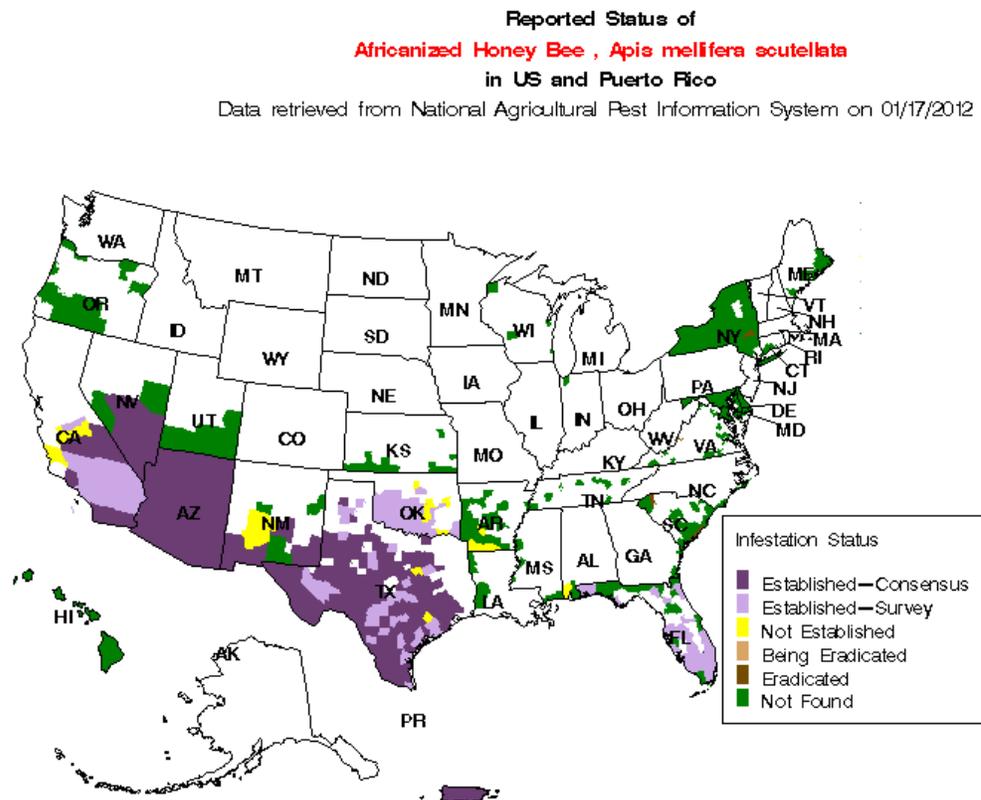
The venom of an AHB is no more poisonous than that of their European counterparts. However, they are more defensive if provoked. The stinging response of AHBs is 10 times greater than that of European honey bees. Vibrations from motors, such as a power lawn mower or weed whacker, particularly seem to disturb them. When provoked, the bees will wander as far as a quarter mile from their nest to chase an intruder. However, individual AHBs on foraging trips for nectar and pollen are no more likely to sting than our European honey bees - they are not wanton killers.

Africanized honey bees tend to colonize large areas and swarm excessively. Also, the bees will leave the colony completely and move to a new location when conditions in the environment do not suit them - a special trait known as "absconding." Africanized honey bees may abscond on flights of several miles.

Other Resources:

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/animals/afrhonbee.shtml>

<http://www.extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/20.pdf>



The Center for Environmental and Regulatory Information Systems does not certify the accuracy or completeness of the map.